

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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## INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

SUBJECT Rechlin-Laerz Airfield

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observations made at Rechlin-Laerz airfield

Enclosure: 1 report

TO: Air

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STATE		ARMY		NAVY		AIR		FBI		AEC				
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SECRET CONTROL  
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26 Aug - 12 Sep 53:    55 MIG 15s  
                               2 FO 2s  
                               2 LI 2s

14 Sep - 22 Sep 53:    26 MIG 15s  
                               5 LA 9s  
                               1 LI 2  
                               2 FO 2s

(c) Camouflaged MIG 15s

Other MIG 15s

(d) Frequent air to air firing exercises day and night.(e) Number of MIG 15s on airfield appeared to be approximately 30 less as from the 14 Sep onwards.2. Aircraft Counts(a) 26 Aug 53    50 MIG 15s  
                               2 FO 2s(b) 1 Sep 53    55 MIG 15s  
                               1 FO 2  
                               1 LI 2(c) 7 Sep 53    54 MIG 15s  
                               2 LI 2s  
                               1 FO 2(d) 12 Sep 53    50 MIG 15s  
                               2 LI 2s  
                               2 FO 2s(e) 14 Sep 53    20 MIG 15s  
                               5 LA 9s  
                               1 LI 2  
                               1 FO 2(f) 16 Sep 53    25 MIG 15s  
                               8 LI 2s  
                               5 LA 9s(g) 22 Sep 53    26 MIG 15s  
                               4 LI 2s  
                               1 FO 2  
                               1 LA 9

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- (ii) Between the 26 Aug and 12 Sep 53, 3 MIG 15s were observed airborne from the airfield having an overall olive green finish with the exception of the wing and fuselage under surfaces which were of a pale blue finish. The green/blue bordering ran along the fuselage approximately level with the wing root and tapered off to join the base of the tail fin.

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(c) Fittings

All silver grey MIG 15s flying from the airfield throughout the period were fitted with auxiliary wing tanks.

4. Flying Activity

- (a) Throughout the period of report 4 silver grey MIG 15s fitted with auxiliary wing tanks were parked in an apparent state of readiness at the take-off end of the runway.
- (b) No MIG 15s or other aircraft were visible in any of the newly erected blast pens along the south-east perimeter of the airfield.
- (c) On most days during the period of report, local flying by up to 4 MIG 15s has been carried out. At the commencement of the reporting period up until approximately the

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- 3 -

14 Sep 53, frequent formation flying was undertaken by sections of 4 MIG 15s [redacted] 50X1-HUM

- (d) Local air to air firing was observed on three occasions when a single MIG 15 has towed a red and white striped drogue. The drogue was attacked by one, or on occasions 2, MIG 15s at varying heights between 1,000 and 3,000m. The length of tow between the MIG 15 and its drogue appeared to be between 100 and 200m.
- (e) On four occasions during the period, air to air firing has taken place over the airfield at night with the aid of three, and on one occasion four, ground searchlights. On one evening only an LA 9 aircraft was heard to take off and shortly after was observed coned by the searchlights towing a drogue. On all other occasions a MIG 15 has towed a drogue and live attacks have been heard to be carried out by MIG 15s in the vicinity. All aircraft have burned normal navigation lights during the night firing exercises. No MIG 15s were airborne for any period longer than 25 minutes on any one night.
- (f) Since the 14 Sep 53 there has been a distinct decrease in the overall amount of flying undertaken from the airfield.
- (g) On the 16 Sep 53, 8 greyish/green LI 2s were observed on the airfield during the course of the morning and later took off at short intervals, flying out of sight in a westerly direction. These aircraft had not returned by dusk, but by early morning on the 17 Sep 53 and throughout the day, four LI 2s were again observed on the airfield.

#### 5. Radar and Radio

- (a) No changes in the static W/T installations have taken place on the airfield during the period.
- (b) The knife-rest radar installation with its associated DUMBO equipment formerly situated on the RECHLIN landing field (approximately 6 kms north of RECHLIN/LARZ airfield) was dismantled on the 10 Sep 53. The knife-rest only has since been set up at a point approximately 500m due east of the north-east corner of the airfield.
- (c) A new radar equipment has been set up on a hillock called the SPROTSCHBERG (approximately 105.8m high) which is approximately midway between the villages of RETZOW and ELLERHOLZ. From a distance the equipment appears to be a large mesh array [redacted] the array on one occasion being observed to rotate slowly. [redacted]

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[redacted] All approaches to the site are guarded by S&F personnel.

6.

A.A.

No A.A. guns are visible on the airfield or in its immediate vicinity, the former site consisting of 8 heavy A.A. gun-pits situated in the extreme north-west corner of RECHLIN/LARZ airfield has remained unoccupied and apparently derelict.

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